

THE TECH

VOL. XXVIII. No. 37

BOSTON, MASS., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1908

PRICE THREE CENTS

ALUMNI BODY HOLDS ELECTIONS

Edwin T. Webster is Elected President, Frank E. Shepard Vice-President

CONSTITUTION REVISED

Committee Chosen to Look After Management of Technology Reunion

Balloting has been completed among the members of the Alumni Association for the election of officers and to see if the revised constitution and by-laws be substituted for the present constitution. The matter of the constitution is of great importance to every alumnus and copies of the revised form have been mailed to all members, together with the necessary ballots.

The polls closed in Boston on Sunday, Dec. 20. Only members of the Alumni Association who have not been connected with the Institute as students for at least five years were entitled to vote for term members of the Corporation.

The following officers were elected:— President, Edwin T. Webster 1888; vice-president, Frank E. Shepard 1887; secretary, Walter Humphreys 1897; executive committee, William S. Johnson 1889, Charles E. Park 1892; nominating committee, Harry W. Tyler 1884, Edward H. Huxley 1895, Frederick H. Hunter 1902; committee on school, Linwood O. Towne 1878; trustee of the Alumni fund and of the life membership fund, James P. Munroe 1882; for Advisory Council on athletics, Frank H. Briggs 1881; for corporation term members, Theodore W. Robinson 1884, Charles R. Richards 1888, Hollis French 1889, E. Laurence Hurd 1895, C. Whipple 1889, Walter B. Snow 1882.

A change in the by-laws provides for the election of term members of the corporation from candidates selected by the alumni. In accordance with this provision the nominating committee of the Alumni Association submitted eight nominees from which five were selected.

A committee has been chosen to look after the management of the all-Technology reunion, June 7, 8, and 9, and work is now under way perfecting plans.

The annual alumni dinner, which will be held January 14, will unquestionably be the largest and most enthusiastic annual dinner that the association has ever held. The association has now outgrown any Boston hotel and it has been decided to hold the dinner at Horticultural Hall, which is an admirable arrangement for such an event, as a thousand people can be seated there comfortably.

The speakers will be Dr. MacLaurin, president-elect of the Institute; Dr. Noyes 1886, acting president; Governor Eben S. Draper 1878; Prof. Robert S. Woodward, president of the Carnegie Institute, and the Hon. Gifford Pinchot, chief forester of the Department of Agriculture.

One important event will be selections by the Glee Club, which will also lead the singing—the singing tables being located adjacent to the Glee Club table. This will be the first introduction of Dr. MacLaurin to the alumni and it will be one of great evidence of a most important year.

ALLEN IS WITNESS

At a hearing of the board of railroad commissioners recently on the protest of several residents of Hingham, Cohasset and Weymouth, against what they deemed to be unsafe curves on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad through these towns, Mr. C. Frank Allen, professor in railroad engineering at the Institute, told of his examinations of the track. A sharp curve in one section of the rail, he said, may be followed in the next section by a flat rail, which cannot fail to cause violent swaying of the car.

CLOSE CONTESTS AT INDOOR MEET

Indications Point Toward a Strenuous Evening on January Eight

HALF MILE TO BE HOT

Many Stars Entered in This Event and a Big Fight for the Cup is Promised

Hotly contested events with close finishes will be the order of the day in the coming annual indoor meet, to be held in the Gym on Jan. 8. The Gym will be open during the holidays and the track men will have opportunity to continue their training up to the day of the meet.

In the 35-yard dash nearly all the star sprinters of the Institute will be entered, and with such men as Capt. Carl Gram 1909, of the track team, W. J. Seligman, the sophomore flyer, K. D. Fernstrom 1910, S. E. Reed 1912, captain of the freshman relay, R. H. Gould 1911, and M. A. Oettinger 1912, close competition will be sure to be furnished. Seligman won this event last year, while K. D. Fernstrom and D. R. Stevens 1911, were the other point winners, now at the Institute.

In the 440-yard dash A. L. Moses 1909, who made his "T" in his freshman year on the varsity relay, will again appear. He has not run for three years, but should be able to make the other contestants hustle for a place. Gram, Fernstrom, Seligman and W. C. Salisbury, captain of this fall's winning sophomore relay, will be among the other contestants. Fernstrom scored second place to Blackburn 1908, in this event last year.

Many veterans will come to the mark in the 880. At present the race looks like a fight between P. D. White and W. C. Salisbury, both 1911, for first position. M. A. Oettinger, the freshman star of the fall meet, has been doing very creditable work in this event and may prove to be a dark horse. C. P. Eldred 1911, and J. D. Mackenzie 1911, have recently changed from long distance work to the half mile.

Eldred was among the point winners at the recent Princeton Intercollegiate cross-country run, and Mackenzie was captain of the winning 1911 cross-country team last spring. Both men should prove strong factors in the race. Besides these is H. Y. Frost 1909, who has scored several times at this distance since he has been at the Institute, and who recently came to the front by winning second place to White in the fall handicap. White won this event in the last indoor meet and Salisbury and Mackenzie took second and fourth places respectively.

Two men of the first water will strive for first honors in the mile run. They are H. H. Howland 1908, the past captain of the cross-country team, and L. O. Mills, the present captain. Both men placed well up to the front at Princeton, and a pretty exhibition may be looked for. W. T. Macreadie 1911, C. P. Eldred 1911, and J. N. Stephenson 1909, with L. O. Mills, who won the race, were the point winners last winter. Stephenson is a good consistent man. He also scored at Princeton and may be counted on to push the winner hard.

Unless Fernstrom enters the hurdles, it looks as though G. B. Cummings 1910, will have it all his own way in this event. The hurdles are at present one of the weakest points of the Institute track team. This meet will offer a good opportunity for any new man to try his mettle.

The high jump will be a close contest between R. H. Allen 1909, E. Stuart 1910, and the allround freshman star, P. W. Dalrymple. Allen and Stuart have both won their "T" in this event in intercollegiate competition, and Dalrymple won the event in the fall handicap and took first place in the three freshmen meets held during the fall.

(Continued on page 3.)

ALCHEMISTS THE FIRST SEARCHERS

First to Develop and Investigate Science of Metallurgy

PROF. JENNINGS TALKS

Took Names of Reagents From Knowledge of Astrology and Chemistry

Prof. W. L. Jennings of Worcester Tech was the speaker at the meeting of the Chemical Society, Monday evening. His subject was the "History of the Development of Chemistry from Alchemy."

Alchemy grew out of the desire to convert the baser metals into gold. All the early knowledge of chemistry came from the experiments of searchers for the "philosopher's stone," which was supposed to convert by miraculous molecular changes the base metals into gold. Alchemists also worked to find a universal remedy for disease.

We find the earliest reference to alchemists in the old Egyptian inscriptions, probably of a date of 2500 B. C., but the art was most flourishing from the fourth to the sixth century A. D.

The alchemists had to invent most of their processes and had but few of the reagents used in the modern science of chemistry. Acids were discovered in the search for a universal solvent.

The symbols and names used in the modern science show the influence of the early searchers more than their processes, which are still used. The connection of the science with astrology is interesting in this respect as is witnessed by the name lunar caustic for silver nitrate and saturnine colic for lead poisoning.

The science obtained its first foothold in Greece, where the priests used their temples as laboratories whence the art achieved a certain dignity, being known as the "Holy Art of Alchemy."

At the time of the Renaissance the knowledge of alchemy was spread broadcast, along with the other forms of Greek culture, but was soon debased and abused by conjurers and magicians who sought only to fool the public. The result of these abuses was to throw the art into disrepute until alchemists were prosecuted as public malefactors.

The modern custom of charging seigniorage on coins is another outgrowth of the custom which monarchs had of offering protection to alchemists who would alloy the coins and mingle the gold with baser metals.

The principles of alchemy bob up nowadays frequently, a plant being recently started in Chicago to make gold and silver. The scientist, Rarasey, claimed to be able to change copper into potassium, sodium and lithium by means of radium, but his claim has been refuted by Mme Curie, the discoverer of radium.

The meeting was well attended, as was warranted by the interest of the subject.

TECH CLUB HEARS TALK

"Hunting Big Game in New Brunswick with Canoe and Camera," was the subject of an interesting talk before the members of the Technology Club last evening, by Mr. William Lyman Underwood, who claimed that there was more sport hunting with a camera than with a gun, and gave the advantages of the latter method. The lecture was remarkably illustrated by a number of excellent views. Not only did he show pictures of moose taken at a distance of fifteen feet, but he threw on the screen pictures showing his guide riding on the back of a cow moose in the water.

Mr. Underwood was recently elected an honorary member of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association.

KNOX, 1910, WINS FENCING CONTEST

Loring, '09, Captures Second Place From Two Other Contestants

BOUTS HOT AND CLOSE

Disappointment Expressed That Contests Brought Out No New Material

H. G. Knox last evening proved himself the best fencer of the Institute team, at the bouts at the Gym. The second and fifth contests between Knox and E. Y. Loring 1909, and Knox and C. Coppinger 1911, were the two best of the tournament, the former going to Knox on form and the latter being almost a draw, Coppinger losing by only one point.

Loring secured a hold on second place by winning all his bouts, but the second, and Coppinger and Capt. Grubnau drew for third place.

The tournament did not bring out as many of the second string men as was expected, and very few attended the bouts, only about a score being present.

The summary follows:—

First bout—V. C. Grubnau 1909, tied C. Coppinger 1911.

Second bout—H. G. Knox 1910, defeated E. M. Loring 1909.

Third bout—H. G. Knox 1910, defeated Grubnau 1909.

Fourth bout—E. M. Loring 1909, defeated C. Coppinger 1911.

Fifth bout—H. G. Knox 1910, defeated C. Coppinger 1911.

Sixth bout—E. M. Loring 1909, defeated Grubnau 1909.

Referee—Lucien Fournon, coach. Judges—Major Fred S. Wheeler, W. C. Towne.

Timer—M. S. Chapin 1910.

TALBOT TO SPEAK

"Science Teaching as a Career" the Subject

Prof. H. B. Talbot will deliver an address at the Girl's Latin School, on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 2:30 P. M. This address will be followed in the same room, by a meeting of the Section C of Chemical Education, before which the following papers will be delivered:— William H. Nichols, "The Efficiency and Deficiencies of the College-Trained Chemist when tested in the Technical Field;" Louis M. Dennis, "To what extent should College Training confer Practical Efficiency along Technical lines." Prof. Talbot is vice-president of Section C, and chairman of section of Chemical Education. The subject of his address will be, "Science Teaching as a Career."

On Saturday, Jan. 2, the following Institute men will deliver papers:—

W. C. Bray and G. M. J. Mackay, "Equilibrium in Solutions containing Copper and Iodine."

G. N. Nelson and C. A. Kraus, "The Potential of the Sodium Electrode."

Prof. Lewis will deliver an address to the Chemical Society on the Ionic Theory.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

1:00 P. M.—Candidates for hockey team meet.

4:00 P. M.—Gym team meets at Gym.

THURSDAY, DEC. 24.

7:30 P. M.—Christmas Eve entertainment at the Union.

THE TECH

Published every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the college year by students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Entered as second-class matter October 6, 1904, at the post office at Boston, Mass., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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Subscriptions within the Boston Postal District and outside of United States must be accompanied by postage at the rate of one cent for each copy.

Subscription - \$1.50 per year in advance.
Single Copies 3 Cents.

Printed by Old Colony Press, Boston.

Wednesday, December 23, 1908.

The next regular issue of The Tech will appear on January 1.

The Tech extends to all its heartiest wishes for a happy, wholesome Christmas.

School closes tonight. Catch the next train for home, whether it be Bangor, Maine, or Chicago, Illinois.

Leave all your books behind and don't think of study again until you strike the Institute next Thursday, ready for another stretch of hard work. Forget your Woods and Bailey, freshmen; sophomore, quit your worry over Physics; and upper-classmen, banish all dread thoughts of Dynamo-Electric Machinery or Structures! Forget the petty inconveniences of Tech's cramped position, the hard work you have done, and tell the folks instead what a big, fine place the Institute is. Be a big-hearted optimist for one week!

Hang up your stocking as you used to do on Christmas eve and join in the good old games with your brothers and sisters. Skate, coast, and fish through the ice. Get out those old snowshoes and take long tramps across country. Live the outdoor life with an open heart and a mind free from care. Drop your reading of books; read for a week the Great Outdoors, the woods, the fields, and the sky.

Then come back here next Thursday with ruddy cheeks and a great big rosy smile, backed by a keen determination to dig in and work for another month. Once more, a Merry Christmas!

It was the stated purpose of the committee on the point system of office holding, to base the ratings not on the honor of the position held, but rather on the amount of time and personal attention supposed to be required of the office holder.

Why then are members of a Tech Show chorus rated at five points, while members of the Institute Committee are rated at seven? Members of the chorus are required to spend regularly three afternoons a week at rehearsals, while so far this year the Institute Committee has held three meetings.

Why are the principals in a Tech Show, who have all the work of a chorus with the added responsibility of having to know their lines and stage business to the highest possible degree of perfection—why are these rated at six points, while the president of the M. I. T. A. A.—a very high sounding title—is rated at eight points, his duties being to preside over the bi-monthly meetings of that association and to act as an occasional intermediary between the Athletic Association and the Advisory Council?

Why are the presidents of the freshman and sophomore classes, with their innocent responsibilities of conducting class meetings held spasmodically throughout the year, and of representing their class, ex-officio, on the above mentioned Institute Committee, rated in the same class with the overworked members of the Senior Portfolio Committee, the Technique board, and the editorial and business staffs of The Tech?

Why are the leaders of the several musical clubs, who must spend two afternoons a week throughout the year whipping a crew of indifferently good musicians into a presentable group of entertainers, beside having to spend one or more nights a week on the numerous musical club trips—why are they credited with six points while eight are given to the presidents of the professional societies who are supposed to arrange a list of entertainments and to procure speakers for the monthly or bi-monthly meetings?

The committee on the point system has probably endeavored to sprinkle their points in the proper order. There has, nevertheless, been a tendency to rate several of the high-sounding titles too high, while many of the minor offices which in reality require a large amount of time and attention are rated too low.

APPOINTMENTS MADE

Sophomores Appoint Managers of Baseball and Basket Ball Teams

At a meeting of the sophomore class directors, held Monday afternoon, the appointment of T. F. McLaughlin as manager of the 1911 baseball team was confirmed. McLaughlin was captain of the team last spring, and played a consistent game during the whole season.

The basketball team was officially recognized as a regular class team and W. H. Hildebrand was appointed manager. T. B. Parker is captain. The team will probably be picked from the following men, but more candidates are desired:—T. P. Parker (Capt.), R. E. Shatz, G. E. Livingston, R. G. Macpherson, H. D. Williams, T. W. Metcalf, G. E. Hodge, D. R. Stevens, S. B. Copeland, C. H. Harrington.

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CLOSE CONTESTS

(Continued from page 1.)

Allen won this event last year with a jump of 5 ft. 6 in. and Stuart tied for second at 5 ft. 3 in.

The shot put is usually an event hard to predict the result of. J. H. Ruckman 1910, and D. V. Williamson 1910, have both done good work, and J. L. Bray has made a fair distance in the freshmen meets. Ruckman is the only last year's point winner now at the Institute, he took third place with a throw of 33 ft. 4 1/2 in.

In the pole vault W. D. Allen 1911, the present record holder, and W. C. Salisbury 1911, are the only men of any class who have yet made an appearance. Salisbury tied for first at 10 ft. last winter, and Allen took fourth place with 9 ft 6 in. Allen has improved wonderfully since that time, however, and is looked upon as the probable winner.

CHEMISTRY DEPT.

Dr. Sherrill has not been able to resume his work at the Institute. Progress towards the recovery of his strength is announced, and it is expected that he will soon be able to continue active service. Prof. G. N. Lewis is conducting the class room exercises in Theoretical Chemistry, which were in Dr. Sherrill's charge, and Mr. R. C. Tolman is taking care of the laboratory work.

The department of chemistry is to be well represented at the winter meeting at Baltimore of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Chemical Society. Prof. Lewis is chairman of the section of physical chemistry of the American Chemical Society, and will give an address on "The Use and Abuse of the Ionic Theory." Prof. Talbot is chairman of the section on the education of chemists and as retiring chairman of Section C of the Association, will give a short address on "Science Teaching as a Career." Dr. Lewis is also president of the northeastern section of the chemical society having its headquarters in Boston.

Mr. Rolfe has been granted leave of absence for the remainder of the year to undertake the direction of the working up of the sugar crop in Aguirre, Porto Rico. He takes with him Mr. C. L. Lufkin, Course V, 1903.

A collection of spectrum tubes of a new pattern for use in the laboratory and lectures have been purchased from Goetze of Leipzig, also a considerable number of new Crookes tubes for the study of electrical phenomena in a high vacuum. From Erneck, of Berlin, a large Lecher apparatus for the demonstration of stationary electric waves, and a simple form of Wheaton's wave apparatus for illustrating the mechanical combination of waves in rectangular planes. From Kohl, of Chemnitz, a Zamboni dry pile of 6000 elements; a Schaik resonance; a balanced double gyroscope; an electrical interrupter fork of variable pitch and a variable fork with resonator, driven by the same, which illustrates very beautifully the struggle between free and forced vibrations; also a new battery of very large and stout Leyden.

There has also been constructed in the department workshop a vibrating projecting oscillograph, devised by Prof. Derr for class demonstration, which operates in a very satisfactory manner, and also a reflectoscope for use with the lanterns habitually employed in the lecture room.

DINING ROOM TO CLOSE

From Dec. 24 to Dec. 31—Uncertainty of Patronage the Cause

At a meeting of the dining room committee of the Union, Tuesday afternoon, it was decided to close the dining room during the Christmas vacation. This step was necessary because of the uncertainty of patronage during that time.

The dining room will close Thursday evening, Dec. 24, and will reopen Thursday morning, Dec. 31.

News has been received of the marriage of Mr. George Bates to Miss Emma E. Caldwell, both of Great Falls, Mont. Mr. Bates is a Tech man, having graduated with the class of 1904. He has been connected with the Boston & Montant smelter for the past four years. At present he is foreman of the slime plant.

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NOTICES

CLUBS—Will the secretaries of the various clubs at the Institute leave their names and addresses at the Cage for the Society Editor, Technique 1910? M2

CHALLENGE—The seniors of Course X challenge any course in any one year to a relay race in the Gym on Jan. 2.

TRACK MEN—All who will be around Boston during Christmas week, be at the Gym for practice, from 2:30 to 4:30 P. M., on the following days:—
Wednesday, Dec. 23; Saturday, Dec. 26; Monday, Dec. 28; Wednesday, Dec. 30.

GYM TEAM—Practice at 4 P. M. every day.

1911 BASKETBALL—Candidates practice at Gym. All men out for the team are requested to report.

KAPPA SIGMA—All members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity in Tech please send their names and addresses to H. S. Alexander, Cage.

GLEE CLUB—No rehearsals this week.

GYM TEAM—A meeting of the Gym team will be held today at 4 P. M., at the Gym, to elect a manager. C. W. Wilson 1910, has been acting as manager until the team could be called together.

FOR TUTORING IN Mathematics and Physics, Dec. 24-30, leave note at Cage today or phone Tremont 1387-1. M. D. Hersey, 424 Mass. Ave.

The Dining Room of the Union will be closed from Thursday night, Dec. 24, until Thursday morning, Dec. 31, by vote of the Union Committee and Dining Room Committee.

HOCKEY TEAM—Important meeting of candidates at the Union today at 1 P. M. Every one report. A game will be played with Dartmouth at Brae Burn Dec. 31, and games are pending with Amherst Agricultural School, Carnegie Tech, and Springfield Training School. There will be practice during the vacation.

Course VI, 1912, hereby accepts the challenge of Course X, 1908, to run on Jan. 2, as stated in The Tech of Monday, Dec. 21, 1908. F. J. Shepard, Jr., A. G. Herreschoff, and F. H. Busby, will run on the 1912 team. The fourth man has not been decided upon.

GILBERT IS PRESIDENT

Cass Gilbert 1880, was made president of the American Institute of Architects at the annual meeting in Washington, Dec. 17. Of the fellows of the Institute chosen at the meeting four of them were former students of the architectural department at Technology. Among the fellows elected were F. C. Baldwin 1890, Myron H. Hunt 1893, G. Harleston Parker 1895, and J. H. Perkins 1899.

Mr. Gilbert was a member of the National Jury of Fine Arts in the World's Fair in Chicago, and the National Jury for Architecture at the Paris Exposition in 1900. He has designed many public buildings; many of the best known of his undertakings being, the Union Club building in New York; the new State Capitol at St. Paul; the Art building and Festival Hall at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and the Essex County Court House at New Jersey. Mr. Gilbert is a native of Ohio and a special student at the Institute with the class of 1880.

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

Invitations to the Christmas entertainment, to be given at the Union Christmas Eve by President Noyes, have been sent out to all the students who live at a considerable distance from Boston. Dr. Noyes would be glad, however, to have anyone attend the reception who will not return home during the Christmas vacation. This reception is always looked upon by the students as one of the big social events of the winter and the entertainment should eclipse all others in the new quarters at the Union.

Prof. Arlo Bates of the English department will read a selection from Dickens. "The Wassail Bowl," singing, and other entertainments will take up the rest of the evening. All those expecting to be at the entertainment should notify the president's assistant.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertisements under this head are inserted at the rate of five cents a line of six words, payable in advance, and copy should be handed to the business manager the morning before publication day.

Found—A watch fob, in Rogers Building, after the convocation. Owner may procure it at Bursar Rand's office.

LOST—A pair of glasses on Friday. If found please leave at Cage for Lougee 1911. W1

LOST—In the Union Monday. A mechanism book. Please return to O. B. Denison, Cage. W

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